KING IN BLACK
VENOM
MARVEL
33
LGY#198
CATES
COELLO
ABURTOV

DURING ONE OF THE LOWEST POINTS OF HIS LIFE, DISGRACED REPORTER EDDIE BROCK STUMBLED UPON AN ALIEN ORGANISM CALLED A SYMBIOTE.

SENSING A KINSHIP WITH BROCK AND A SHARED HATRED OF THE COSTUMED VIGILANTE CALLED SPIDER-MAN, THE CREATURE BONDED TO HIM.

SEVERED FROM ITS OWN COLLECTED CONSCIOUSNESS, THE SYMBIOTE FOUND A WILLING PARTNER IN BROCK, AND THE TWO BECAME A VIGILANTE IN THEIR OWN RIGHT.

ELIMINATING THE CRIMINAL ELEMENT WITH EXTREME PREJUDICE, THEY ARE...

VENOM

AGENTS VENOM

KNULL, THE GOD OF THE SYMBIOTES, HAS LANDED ON EARTH, COVERING THE PLANET IN A SYMBIOTE DOME AND SUBJECTING ALL OF HUMANITY TO HIS ARMY OF SYMBIOTE DRAGONS. **EDDIE BROCK**, AS VENOM, ATTEMPTED TO FACE KNULL BUT WAS SWIFTLY STRIPPED OF HIS SYMBIOTE AND DROPPED OFF THE EMPIRE STATE BUILDING, CRASHING INTO THE HOOD OF A TRUCK. ON IMPACT, EDDIE'S CODEX SPIRIT LEFT HIS BODY AND ENTERED THE HIVE, WHERE HE REUNITED WITH SOLDIER AND FORMER SYMBIOTE HOST **REX STRICKLAND**. AS REX WALKS EDDIE THROUGH THE HIVE, THEY FIND THAT EDDIE'S PHYSICAL BODY HAS DIED. UNABLE TO ADMIT DEFEAT, EDDIE VOWS TO FIND A WAY TO TURN THE TIDE FROM INSIDE THE HIVE. REX THEN REINTRODUCES EDDIE TO A FAMILIAR FACE TO AID IN THEIR BATTLE: **FLASH THOMPSON, AGENT VENOM!**

DONNY CATES WRITER // **IBAN COELLO** ARTIST
JESUS ABURTOV COLORIST
VC'S CLAYTON COWLES LETTERER

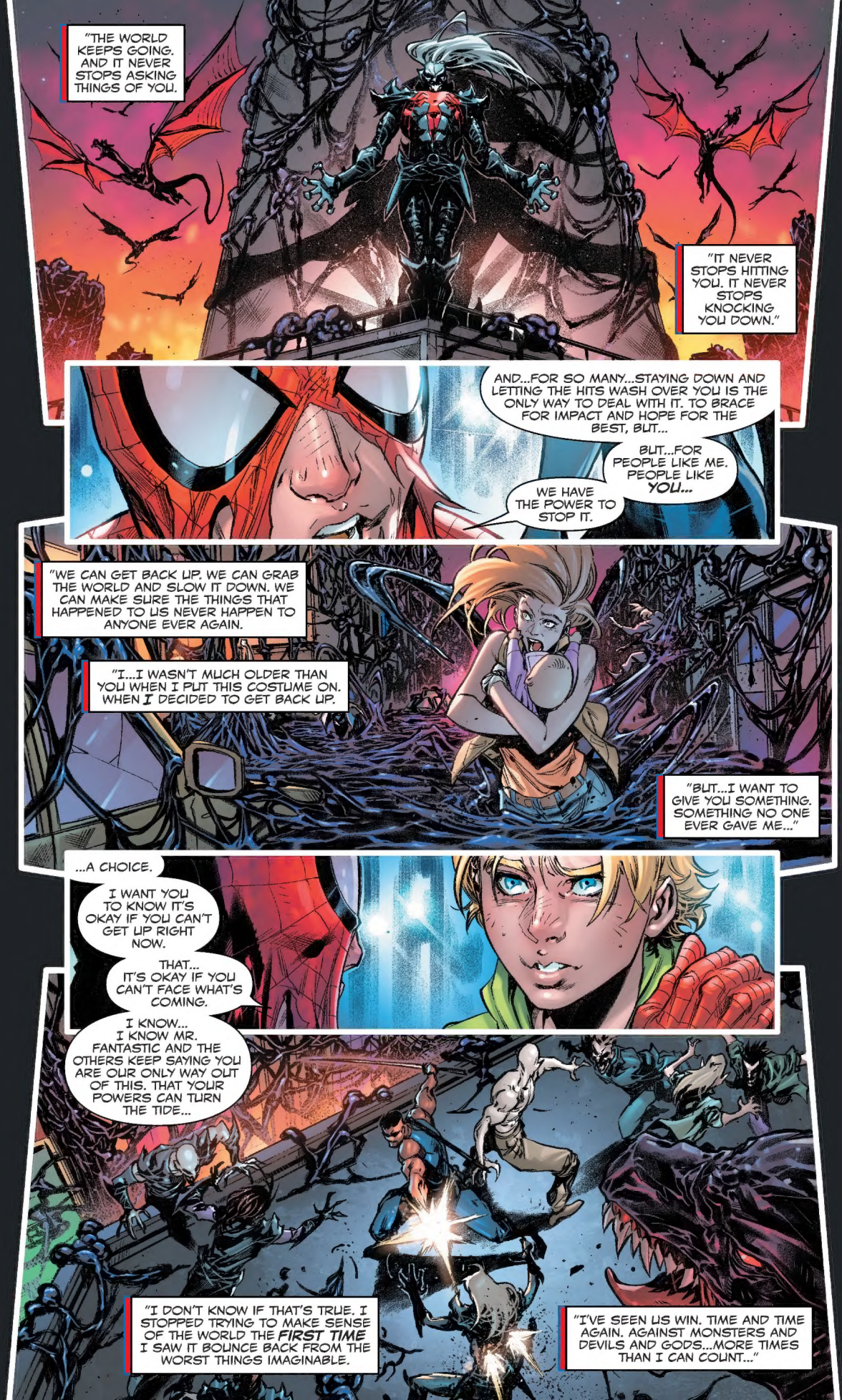
IBAN COELLO & JESUS ABURTOV COVER ARTISTS

RYAN STEGMAN & JASON KEITH; RYAN STEGMAN [SKETCH]; **DAVID FINCH & FRANK D'ARMATA** VARIANT COVER ARTISTS

PATRICK McGRATH KING IN BLACK LOGO DESIGN
JAY BOWEN KING IN BLACK TRADE DRESS DESIGN
ANTHONY GAMBINO PRODUCTION DESIGN
DANNY KHAZEM ASSISTANT EDITOR
DEVIN LEWIS EDITOR
NICK LOWE EXECUTIVE EDITOR
C.D. CEBULSKI EDITOR IN CHIEF

© 2021 MARVEL. No similarity between any of the names, characters, persons, and/or institutions in this magazine with those of any living or dead person or institution is intended, and any such similarity which may exist is purely coincidental.

DYLAN...
I KNOW WE DON'T KNOW EACH OTHER VERY WELL...BUT...I--I MADE YOUR DAD A PROMISE, AND...I JUST... I NEED YOU TO LISTEN TO ME, OKAY?
I... I'VE BEEN WHERE YOU ARE RIGHT NOW.
I LOST MY PARENTS TOO. I'VE... LOST A LOT OF PEOPLE IN MY LIFE. PEOPLE THAT I LOVED. THAT I THOUGHT WOULD ALWAYS BE THERE TO PROTECT ME. TO GUIDE ME...
I KNOW IT FEELS LIKE...
...LIKE THE WORLD IS CRUMBLING BENEATH YOUR FEET. LIKE THE EARTH SHOULDN'T STILL BE SPINNING NOW THAT...
...NOW THAT THEY'RE GONE.
BUT THEN...IT ALWAYS DOES.
IT JUST...KEEPS SPINNING.


"THE WORLD KEEPS GOING. AND IT NEVER STOPS ASKING THINGS OF YOU.
"IT NEVER STOPS HITTING YOU. IT NEVER STOPS KNOCKING YOU DOWN."
AND...FOR SO MANY...STAYING DOWN AND LETTING THE HITS WASH OVER YOU IS THE ONLY WAY TO DEAL WITH IT. TO BRACE FOR IMPACT AND HOPE FOR THE BEST, BUT...
BUT...FOR PEOPLE LIKE ME. PEOPLE LIKE YOU...
WE HAVE THE POWER TO STOP IT.
"WE CAN GET BACK UP. WE CAN GRAB THE WORLD AND SLOW IT DOWN. WE CAN MAKE SURE THE THINGS THAT HAPPENED TO US NEVER HAPPEN TO ANYONE EVER AGAIN.
"I...I WASN'T MUCH OLDER THAN YOU WHEN I PUT THIS COSTUME ON. WHEN I DECIDED TO GET BACK UP.
"BUT...I WANT TO GIVE YOU SOMETHING. SOMETHING NO ONE EVER GAVE ME..."
...A CHOICE.
I WANT YOU TO KNOW IT'S OKAY IF YOU CAN'T GET UP RIGHT NOW.
THAT... IT'S OKAY IF YOU CAN'T FACE WHAT'S COMING.
I KNOW... I KNOW MR. FANTASTIC AND THE OTHERS KEEP SAYING YOU ARE OUR ONLY WAY OUT OF THIS. THAT YOUR POWERS CAN TURN THE TIDE...
"I DON'T KNOW IF THAT'S TRUE. I STOPPED TRYING TO MAKE SENSE OF THE WORLD THE FIRST TIME I SAW IT BOUNCE BACK FROM THE WORST THINGS IMAGINABLE.
"I'VE SEEN US WIN. TIME AND TIME AGAIN. AGAINST MONSTERS AND DEVILS AND GODS...MORE TIMES THAN I CAN COUNT..."

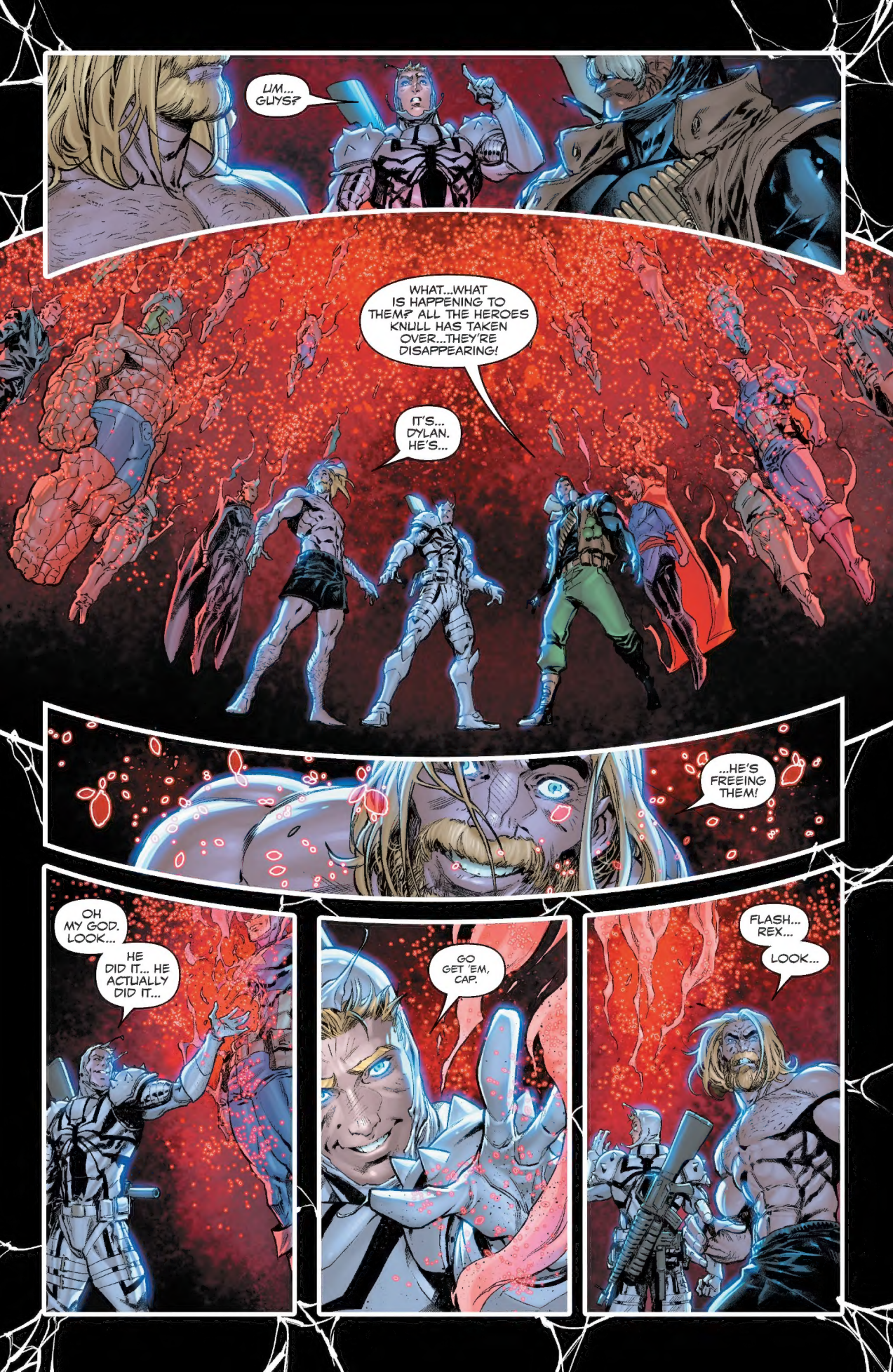
AND I KNOW, IN MY HEART OF HEARTS, THAT WE CAN OVERCOME THIS. AND NO MATTER WHAT ANYONE SAYS...WE CAN DO IT WITHOUT YOU...IF WE HAVE TO.
SO I NEED YOU TO TRUST ME. I NEED YOU TO BE BRAVE.
"AND...UNDERSTAND THAT SOMETIMES BEING BRAVE MEANS ADMITTING THAT YOU'RE SCARED. THAT YOU NEED HELP.
"IT TOOK ME A LONG TIME TO LEARN THAT, BUT..."
...YOUR FATHER TOLD ME TO TAKE CARE OF YOU.
SO, DYLAN, LISTEN TO ME. PLEASE. TRUST ME.
YOU DON'T HAVE TO DO THIS. I WILL PROTECT YOU IF YOU DON'T WANT TO GO OUT THERE.
"I WILL PROTECT YOU FROM THE WORLD."
EVERYONE READY?
DYLAN, DO YOU NEED A--
I NEED...
...TO HURT SOMETHING.

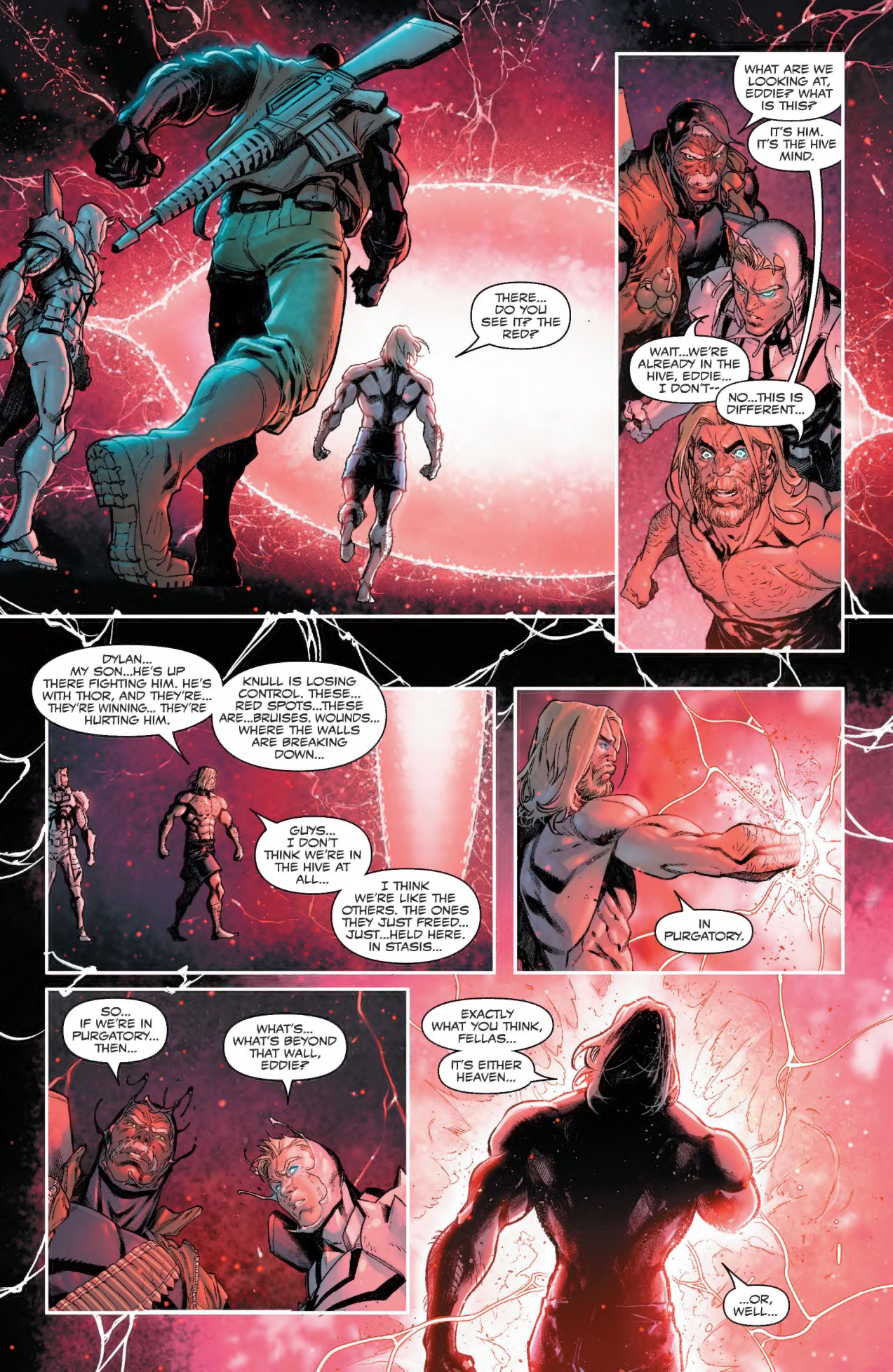
AGHH!
REX, WHAT'S GOING ON? IS HE--
I DON'T KNOW.
EDDIE, WHAT'S GOING ON? WHAT'S WRONG, SON?
I...DON'T KNOW... SOMETHING... SOMETHING IS WRONG...
I CAN'T...
HEY, COME ON. LET'S GET YOU--
FLASH...HOW...HOW ARE YOU HERE? I--I THOUGHT--
MY CODEX DIED AFTER YOU WORE IT?
YEAH...
DOESN'T WORK LIKE THAT. JUST BECAUSE IT WAS LOST TO YOU, DOESN'T MEAN I WAS LOST.
WE ALL END UP BACK HERE. BACK IN THE HIVE.
LUCKY FOR YOU.
SO...DID YOU...
HEAR WHAT YOU SAID AT MY GRAVE? ABOUT ME BEING THE BETTER VENOM AND A BETTER MAN AND THE GREATEST HERO TO EVER--
I DON'T THINK THAT'S EXACTLY WHAT I--
NOPE. I WAS THERE. HEARD EVERY WORD. I THINK I ACTUALLY SAW A TEAR OR TWO IF I'M NOT MISTAK--
FLASH. IT WAS A TOUGH TIME FOR ME, OKAY? I DON'T NEED--
EDDIE...

Read more FREE comics on ReadComicOnline

ALL KIDDING ASIDE...
IT, UH... IT MEANT A LOT TO ME, MAN. THAT... I WASN'T FORGOTTEN. THAT I STILL... WELL, THAT I HAD DONE SOME GOOD OUT THERE.
I MEAN THAT, ED.
THANK YOU.
IT'S GOOD TO SEE YOU, FLASH.
NOW, HOW THE HELL DO WE GET OUT OF--
AGHHH!
EDDIE! WHAT'S GOING ON!
IT'S KNULL!
SOMETHING IS HAPPENING. IT'S LIKE I'M CONNECTED TO HIM SOMEHOW...
...AND I-- I CAN FEEL IT... SOMETHING...
SOMETHING IS HURTING HIM.
KNULL? WHAT IS IT? WHAT COULD HURT HIM LIKE THAT?!
HEH...

"...MY BOY."


UM... GUYS?
WHAT...WHAT IS HAPPENING TO THEM? ALL THE HEROES KNULL HAS TAKEN OVER...THEY'RE DISAPPEARING!
IT'S... DYLAN. HE'S...
...HE'S FREEING THEM!
OH MY GOD. LOOK...
HE DID IT... HE ACTUALLY DID IT...
GO GET 'EM, CAP.
FLASH... REX...
LOOK...


THERE... DO YOU SEE IT? THE RED?
WHAT ARE WE LOOKING AT, EDDIE? WHAT IS THIS?
IT'S HIM. IT'S THE HIVE MIND.
WAIT...WE'RE ALREADY IN THE HIVE, EDDIE... I DON'T--
NO...THIS IS DIFFERENT...
DYLAN... MY SON...HE'S UP THERE FIGHTING HIM. HE'S WITH THOR, AND THEY'RE... THEY'RE WINNING... THEY'RE HURTING HIM.
KNULL IS LOSING CONTROL. THESE... RED SPOTS...THESE ARE...BRUISES. WOUNDS... WHERE THE WALLS ARE BREAKING DOWN...
GUYS... I DON'T THINK WE'RE IN THE HIVE AT ALL...
I THINK WE'RE LIKE THE OTHERS. THE ONES THEY JUST FREED... JUST...HELD HERE. IN STASIS...
IN PURGATORY.
SO... IF WE'RE IN PURGATORY... THEN...
WHAT'S... WHAT'S BEYOND THAT WALL, EDDIE?
EXACTLY WHAT YOU THINK, FELLAS...
IT'S EITHER HEAVEN...
...OR, WELL...

...HELL.

OH MY GOD...

WHAT... WHAT IS THIS?

THIS IS IT...THE CENTER.

THE CENTRAL NERVOUS SYSTEM THAT CONNECTS ALL OF THE SYMBIOTES IN THE UNIVERSE...

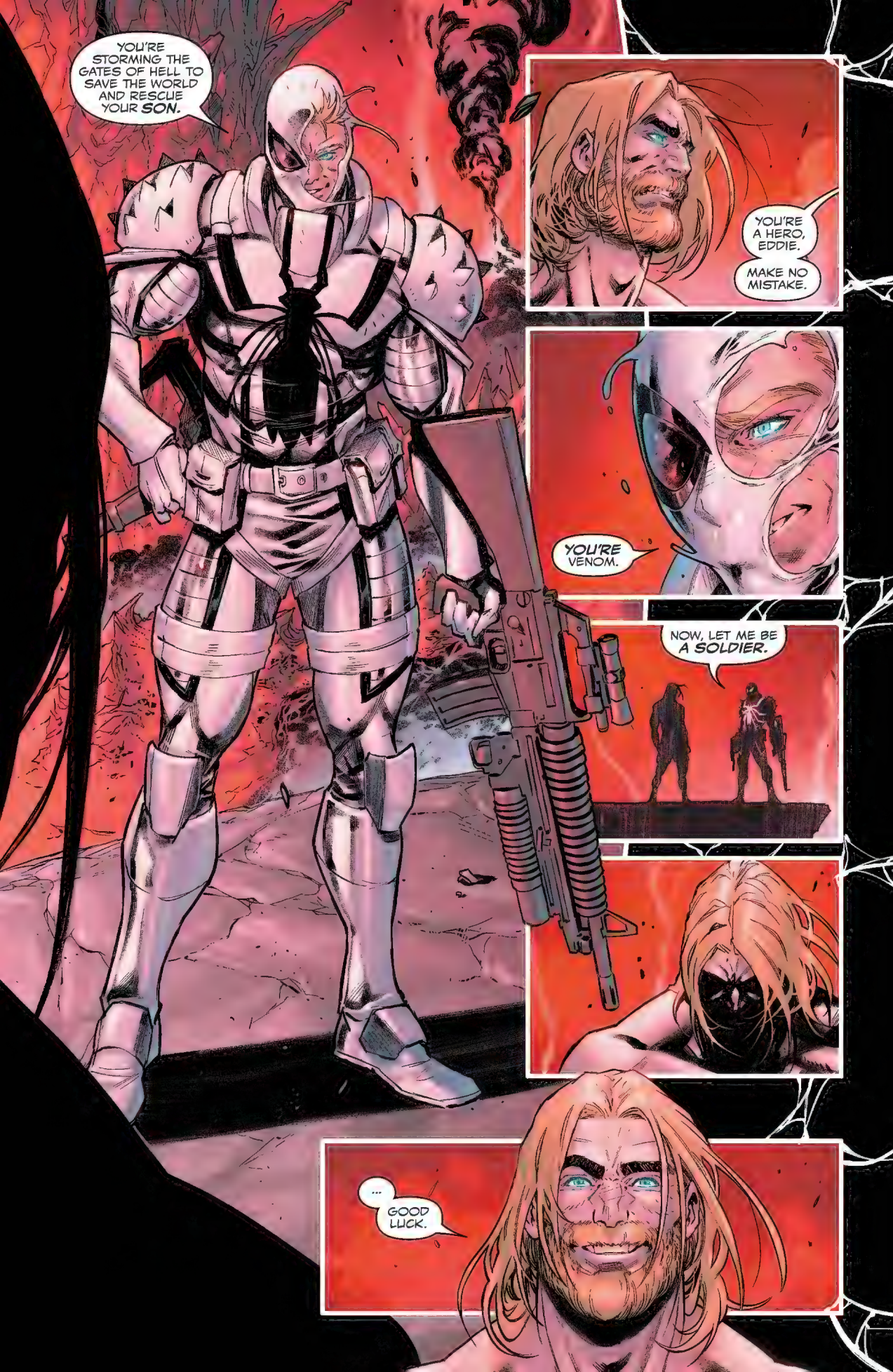
...THE EYE AT THE CENTER OF THE STORM...

...THE GOD HIVE.

ALMIGHTY... I HAD NO IDEA...
THIS IS TOO MUCH, EDDIE. WHAT...WHAT DO WE DO NOW?
WHAT WE CAME HERE TO DO.
LOOK...
...THOSE SYMBIOTES. THE ONES IN CAGES...
THEY'VE BEEN CUT OFF FROM THE HIVE. THEIR CONNECTION SEVERED BY DYLAN AND THOR ABOVE...
THERE'S A REASON KNULL IS KEEPING THEM CAGED...
THEY'RE FREE OF HIS INFLUENCE. IF WE CAN GET TO THEM, I THINK WE CAN BOND WITH THEM. THE WAY MY SYMBIOTE IS ABLE TO ABSORB FLASH'S CODEX...
WE CAN PILOT THEM OUT OF HERE. BACK TO THE FIGHT.
HOW DO YOU KNOW THIS?
I...I DON'T KNOW. IT'S A FEELING.
THIS PLACE... I'M CLOSE TO MY OTHER. I THINK IT'S TRYING TO REACH OUT TO ME.
TO HELP US.

THAT'S A SUICIDE MISSION, ED.
I KNOW. IT SOUNDS INSANE, BUT--
NO, IT *IS* INSANE. WE BREAK THOSE SYMBIOTES OUT, KNULL'S GONNA NOTICE... WE CAN'T--
I'LL GO.
FLASH... NO. WE CAN ALL--
THIS IS WHAT REX WANTED ME FOR IN THE BEGINNING, RIGHT? HOW THIS ALL STARTED?
WHEN HE FOUND YOU, HE WAS LOOKING FOR ME. TO GO AND FREE THE SYM-SOLDIERS FROM THAT CONVOY. TO BREAK THEM OUT...
BUT I WASN'T THERE.
AND YOU... YOU STEPPED UP, EDDIE. YOU DID WHAT HAD TO BE DONE.
AND IT'S LED TO ALL OF THIS.
THIS IS *MY MISSION.*
IT WAS ALWAYS SUPPOSED TO BE MINE.

LET ME DO IT, ED.
YOU GET TO YOUR SYMBIOTE AND END THIS SON OF A %#$@.
FLASH... NO, YOU--
I HAD MY TURN. THIS IS YOUR SHOW NOW.
YOU DESERVE BETTER THAN THIS! YOU'RE A HERO, FLASH, I'M NOT--
STOP IT.
THAT'S ENOUGH WITH THIS ALREADY.
YOU... YOU'RE ALWAYS QUESTIONING YOURSELF...ALWAYS DOUBTING IF YOU'RE A GOOD GUY OR A BAD GUY...
YOU THINK YOU AREN'T GOOD ENOUGH TO BE A HERO?
LOOK AROUND, ED. LOOK AT HOW FAR YOU'VE COME! YOU'VE FACED THE DARKEST EVIL IN THE GALAXY AND BEATEN IT BACK.
YOU'VE DEFIED EVERY CHALLENGE THAT'S EVER BEEN PUT IN FRONT OF YOU. SO YOU HAVE A DARK PAST? WELL, JOIN THE CLUB...
EVERYONE MAKES MISTAKES. I DAMN SURE KNOW I HAVE...
YOU MAY NOT THINK YOU HAVE WHAT IT TAKES TO STAND NEXT TO CAP AND SPIDEY AND THE REST, BUT... EDDIE...


YOU'RE STORMING THE GATES OF HELL TO SAVE THE WORLD AND RESCUE YOUR SON.
YOU'RE A HERO, EDDIE.
MAKE NO MISTAKE.
YOU'RE VENOM.
NOW, LET ME BE A SOLDIER.
...
GOOD LUCK.

HEHE...
LUCK HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH IT, BUD.
I HOPE YOU KNOW WHAT YOU'RE DOING, BROCK.
YEAH...
"...ME TOO."
RATATA
ALL RIGHT, THOMPSON...LAST SECONDS ON THE CLOCK...ONE PLAY LEFT...
TATATATA
WHAT DO YOU DO?! WHAT DO YOU--
TATATATA
AGH!!!
CLINK
HAIL MARY IT IS!

BOOOOM!
NO!
HELL YEAH.
"EDDIE, DAMMIT, LOOK! THEY'RE KILLING HIM!"
AGGHH!
NO...
HHHAAHAHA!
LET'S GO!

Read more FREE comics on ReadComicOnline

HE DID IT!
REX, FLASH BROKE THE SYMBIOTES OUT. HE DOWNLOADED HIS CODEX INTO ONE OF THEM, AND NOW HE'S UP THERE, FIGHTING!
COME ON. THIS IS IT...
...THIS IS OUR CHANCE!
WE WON'T HAVE MUCH TIME BEFORE KNULL SEES WHAT WE'RE DOING, SO LET'S GET YOU OUT OF HERE NEXT, AND I'LL BE RIGHT BEHIND--
AGH!
REX! WHAT ARE YOU DOING?! HELP ME!
OH, I'M AFRAID YOUR FRIEND REX IS GONE.
NOW, EDDIE...

Read more FREE comics on ReadComicOnline

KING IN BLACK

NEXT:

VENOM #34

CHECKLIST

- [x] **VENOM #33**
  ENTER THE LIGHT!
- [ ] **KING IN BLACK: MARAUDERS #1**
  THE SEAS HAVE AWOKEN, AND THE MARAUDERS ARE HERE TO FACE THE RISING TIDE!
- [ ] **KING IN BLACK: GWENOM VS. CARNAGE #2**
  MARY JANE FINALLY SWINGS HER AX AT GWEN—BUT NOT THE ONE GWEN EXPECTS!
- [ ] **KING IN BLACK: BLACK KNIGHT #1**
  DANE WHITMAN, THE BLACK KNIGHT, LEARNS THE HORRIBLE HISTORY OF HIS LINEAGE AND THE EBONY BLADE!
- [ ] **KING IN BLACK: RETURN OF THE VALKYRIES #2**
  THE VALKYRIES LEARN MUCH MORE IS AT STAKE THAN JUST EARTH WHEN THEY FIND A LARGE SPIRIT LOOMING ABOVE THE PLANET!
- [ ] **KING IN BLACK: BLACK PANTHER #1**
  WAKANDA IS UNDER SYMBIOTE SEIGE!
- [ ] **DAREDEVIL #27**
  DAREDEVIL FACES A CRISIS OF FAITH WHILE HELL'S KITCHEN BURNS!
- [ ] **FANTASTIC FOUR #29**
  A FAMILY DIVIDED CANNOT STAND!
- [ ] **S.W.O.R.D. #3**
  MANIFOLD MUST JOURNEY TO SAVE THE PLANET—AND THE UNIVERSE!
- [ ] **KING IN BLACK: THUNDERBOLTS #2**
  KINGPIN'S THUNDERBOLTS ENLIST THE MOST UNLIKELY ALLY.
- [ ] **KING IN BLACK #4** (PICTURED)
- [ ] **KING IN BLACK: PLANET OF THE SYMBIOTES #2**
  AMERICAN KAIJU RISES TO SAVE HIS NATION!
- [ ] **MILES MORALES: SPIDER-MAN #23**
  MILES GOES FIST-TO-FIST WITH ONE OF HIS BEST FRIENDS—CAN HE SAVE THEM?
- [ ] **SAVAGE AVENGERS #18**
  CONAN HAS NEVER SEEN ANYTHING LIKE THIS BEFORE—CHALLENGE ACCEPTED!
- [ ] **KING IN BLACK: CAPTAIN AMERICA #1**
  CAPTAIN AMERICA, FALCON AND THE WINTER SOLDIER HAVE BOOTS ON THE GROUND AGAINST AN ARMY OF SYMBIOTES!
- [ ] **BLACK CAT #3**
  A RACE AGAINST TIME THAT MIGHT COST FELICIA ONE OF HER NINE LIVES!
- [ ] **KING IN BLACK: NAMOR #4**
  THE WAVES OF HISTORY CONTINUE TO CRASH ON NAMOR—CAN HE PUT THE LID BACK ON WHEN THE TIME COMES?
- [ ] **SYMBIOTE SPIDER-MAN: KING IN BLACK #4**
  THINGS GET MESSY AS ULIK ENTERS THE FRAY!
- [ ] **KING IN BLACK: RETURN OF THE VALKYRIES #3**
  WHAT DARKNESS LIES BEYOND VALHALLA FOR THE VALKYRIES?